

SWINNEY HOMESTEAD

FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

Allen Co

IN-  
HABS NO. 24-6

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 24

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
HERBERT W. FOLTZ, DISTRICT OFFICER  
1034 Architects Building, Indianapolis

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Colonel Thomas W. Swinney, who came to Fort Wayne probably in 1823, was a native of Piketon, Ohio, where he was born November 18, 1803.

Shortly after his arrival, two brothers, Joseph L. and Samuel, located at Fort Wayne; the former was active in the earlier development of the town, but the latter died soon after his settlement here.

Previous to the marriage of Thomas W. Swinney and Lucy Taber, daughter of Paul Taber, the wife had entered the tract of land which included the present Swinney Park. To this tract Mr. Swinney made valuable additions, including a tract of land belonging to Paul Taber, and a piece of land on the West bank of the St. Mary's river, adjoining Swinney Park.

Mr. Swinney took an active part in the development of the city and became a man of large means. His munificence, as expressed in the possession by the city of Swinney Park, will be appreciated by untold coming generations. His death occurred January 20, 1875, at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

His daughters were the Misses Frances and Carolina Swinney. On the death of the daughters this property, comprising the present Swinney Park, also the homestead and ground, was given to the city of Fort Wayne. The homestead is now used by the Allen County Historical Museum.

The original part of the homestead or building was erected in the year 1840 and was a one and one-half story brick building of early Colonial design. In the year 1885 the residence was remodeled into its present state with the present servant's wing. The interior trim and details of the first floor is original; the second floor trim and detail is all of the 1885 period.

Swinney Homestead  
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Interior stairways in residence are not of the original building. Stairway from first to second floors was constructed when remodeling took place (1885) and the stairway from the second floor to attic was installed when taken over by the museum. This stairway was taken from another old residence in Fort Wayne, design showing it to be of an early period.

The Architect for this home is unknown.

(Signed)

Guy Mahurin  
Squad Leader

(Approved)

Herbert N. Folz  
DISTRICT OFFICER

April 23, 1934